

seems necessary to wait for the comprehensive report of this Committee on this whole problem before passing any new Resolution.

(I) Collection of information on historical documents pertaining to Indian from abroad

(9) Resolution by Prof. M.N.Das

"Resolved that official requests be made to different Governments of Europe and Asia to supply information regarding the availability of historical documents pertaining to India in their respective Archives."

Explanatory Note

In a number of countries of Europe and Asia historical records concerning India, particularly of the nature of political and commercial relations, are available in plenty. Information as regard to the location of such records, with some idea as regard to the character of those records, will prove a valuable source of information for historical purpose. Official requests for information on behalf of the Government of India to various countries may yield results in this regard.

Standing Committee's views:

A Resolution was passed at the 30th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Patna in December, 1968 recommending that the Government of India be requested to take early steps to obtain microfilm copies of documents in West Asia relating to India's trade with that region. At the 42nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Panaji (Goa) in January, 1973 the Commission recommended a review of the policy regarding acquisition of microfilm copies of records from abroad by various institutions in India.

As regards the acquisition of microfilm copies of record of Indian interest from abroad, a circular letter (F.14-16/73-C dated 3.11.73) was addressed to all the State Governments, Universities, Learned Institutions etc. represented on the Commission requesting them to send a list of microfilms already obtained by them from abroad and also to spell out the programme of acquisition of microfilms of records from abroad during the 5th Five-Year Plan. Only (1) Deccan College Post-Graduate Research Institute, Poona, (2) Utkal University and (3) State Archives of Maharashtra, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have supplied lists of microfilms acquired by them from abroad. The Government of India has now appointed a Committee known as the 'Microfilming Coordinating Committee' which is likely to coordinate and control the microfilming work being done in India and abroad about India.

Since 1948 the National Archives of India has been acquiring microfilm copies of records bearing on Modern Indian History from various archival repositories of U.K., France, Denmark, Norway, Holland, U.S.S.R., Italy, Hungary, G.D.R., U.S.A., Canada and Iraq, Singapore, Thailand etc. These have been thrown open to the bonafide research scholars conducting research in the National Archives of India. The microfilm copies of records pertaining to India are also being required by the N.A.I. from the various foreign countries under the Cultural Exchange Programmes. The Resolution, therefore, appears redundant.